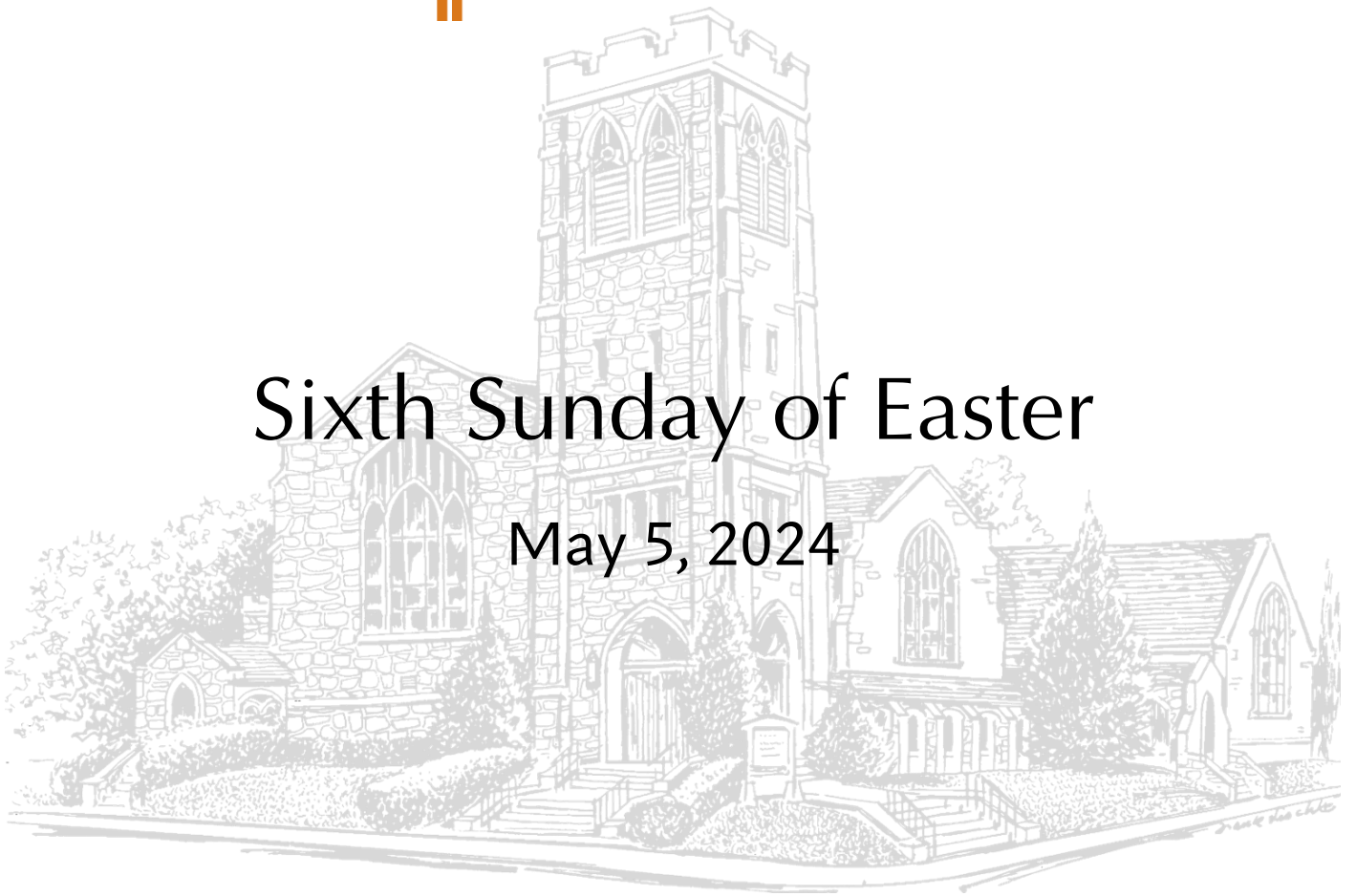




WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024



Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome, in Christ's name, to all who worship here or join us in fellowship. Our church family seeks to embody God's boundless love by embracing, liberating and empowering people – whoever they are and wherever they may be on their faith journeys – to realize the transforming power of Christ in our congregation, community, and the world beyond.



A Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
A Matthew 25 Church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

TODAY AT WESTMINSTER

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Cereal Sunday** for Hanover Food Pantry in the Westminster parking lot

8:45 – 12:15 p.m. **Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers in Preschool Suite D

9:00 – 9:55 a.m. **Worship** in the Sanctuary

Time with Our Children (approximately 9:15 a.m.)

The young and young-at-heart are invited to join the worship leader at the front of the sanctuary. Following the TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN, young ones through fifth grade may be escorted to Children's Programming or they are welcome to remain in worship.

Children's Programming (9:20 – 10:00 a.m.)

- Preschool Sunday School: Ages 3 and 4 in the Preschool Suite Room C
- Joyful Noise Choir: Kindergarten–Grade 5 in the Youth Music Room

10:00 – 10:45 a.m. **Holy Toast Café** in Walton Community Hall
Enjoy free coffee, tea, and fellowship. Breakfast items are available for one dollar.

10:10 – 11:00 a.m. **Children and Youth Programming**

- Nursery Care: Age 4 and under in Preschool Suite D
- Kids Zone Sunday School: Kindergarten–Grade 5 in Classroom 1
- Middle School Zone: Grades 6–8 in Classroom 3

Adult Education (see page 6)

- The Gnostic Gospels in Classroom 6

11:15 – 12:00 p.m. **Living Mosaics worship** in Rodney Chapel

11:15 – 12:00 p.m. **Flying Solo Brunch** at BBC Tavern and Grill in Greenville

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. **180° Youth Group** Offsite/Classroom 7

For descriptions of our programs for children and youth, visit wpc.org/children-youth.

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The Music: Harold Friedell's 1957 anthem setting of Percy Dearmer's hymn text is a standard piece of choral repertoire for most church choirs today. Friedell (1905–1958) was a professor of theory and composition at the School of Sacred Music, Union Theological Seminary, in New York City, for which the hymn tune associated with the hymn text gets its name: UNION SEMINARY. Save the dates: Westminster's Joyful Noise Children's Choir will sing in worship on Mother's Day, May 12. The Westminster Choir's spring concert is May 19 at 3 p.m.

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of her Aunt Doris Heffron's 92nd birthday by Eadie Churchill. The flowers in the Narthex are given by Chris and Lynne Perkins to the glory of God and in memory of Lynn's father, Donald W. Mattson, and in honor of our new Westminster members, daughters Kyra and Corinne. Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event. Please contact Linda Watson at (302) 571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com.

Westminster's Prayer Team prays for the needs of our community. Please submit your prayer request to wpcprayerlist@gmail.com or online at wpc.org/care-support.

You can make a contribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website at wpc.org and clicking the "Donate" button or scan this QR code on your smart phone. → We accept donations by bank withdrawal, credit card, and debit card.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

~ Passages in **bold** print may be spoken by all. At the asterisk (*) please stand in body or rise in spirit. ~

TOWER CHIME

Susan Spilecki

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Johann Gottfried Walther

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us love one another,

for love is of God.

All who love are born of God and know God.

All who do not love, do not know God, for God is love.

— 1 John 4:7-8

*HYMN No. 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**God of all blessings and source of all life,
we thank you for setting us in communities:
for families who nurture our growth,
for friends who love us by choice,
for companions who share our burdens and daily tasks,
for strangers who welcome us into their midst,
for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding,
for children who lighten our moments with delight.
For these, and all blessings, we give you thanks,
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen**

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

(See "Today at Westminster" on page 2.)

Kathleen Kennan

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ruth 1:1-19a

Old Testament, page 223

SERMON

Gregory Knox Jones

*HYMN No. 693

Though I May Speak

GIFT OF LOVE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Paul Manz

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

We come to the table as children of God.

We share a common faith and a common desire.

We come to be transformed into new people

who experience the deep joy of devoted love.

ANTHEM

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name,
Two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.
As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup.
Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.
All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Eternal God...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Supper is open to all who trust in Christ. To receive communion by intinction, please approach the station on either the lectern or pulpit side, take a piece of bread and dip it in the chalice.

If you prefer packaged communion elements, you will find those in the bread basket.

Please return to your seat to partake of the packaged elements. If you are unable to come to a station, please tell an usher so that you may be served. If you are sitting in the balcony, you will be served in your pew.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

*HYMN No. 317

In Christ There Is No East or West

MC KEE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Gift of Love

James Pethel

New to Westminster? Welcome! We're so glad you're here. If you are joining us for the first time, please introduce yourself via our contact form on the [I'm New](#) page of our website or scan this QR code to get there from your mobile device. We look forward to getting to know you.



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ADULT EDUCATION

TODAY, MAY 5

The Gnostic Gospels *Presented by Bob Cox*

10:10–11:00 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom

Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom

This is the second class of this series. You are welcome to join even if you missed the first class. The Gnostics were Jewish and Christian sects beginning in the late first century who emphasized personal spiritual knowledge (“Gnosis”) above orthodox teachings. Their writings flourished across the Mediterranean world until early Christian Church leaders denounced their teachings as heresy. Join Bob Cox as we review Gnostic teachings, both from the perspective of their critics and from the Gnostics own writings rediscovered in Nag Hammadi, Egypt, in 1945.

**~ POSTPONED TO
THE FALL ~**

Criminal Justice Reform

*Presented by Kathleen
Jennings, DE Attorney General*



NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 12

The Gnostic Gospels

Presented by Bob Cox

10:10–11:00 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom

Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom



This is the third class of this series. You are welcome to join even if you missed one of the other classes.

The Gnostics were Jewish and Christian sects beginning in

the late first century who emphasized personal spiritual knowledge (“Gnosis”) above orthodox teachings. Their writings flourished across the Mediterranean world until early Christian Church leaders denounced their teachings as heresy.

Join Bob Cox as we review Gnostic teachings, both from the perspective of their critics and from the Gnostics own writings rediscovered in Nag Hammadi, Egypt, in 1945.

ONGOING/WEEKLY

Online Bible Studies

Midweek Manna Bible Study

Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Zoom

Contact: Robin Rosser (rlrosser@aol.com)

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Thursdays | 6–7 p.m. | Zoom

*Facilitators: Randy Williamson
and Mary Anne Peters*

Contact: randywilliamson1@comcast.net

Peace and Justice Thursday Evening Education Event

Budgeting Based on Crime

*With Meryem Dede, Co-Coordinator of the
Campaign to End Debtors' Prison*

Join us to learn more about fines and fees
reform in Delaware.

May 9 | 7 p.m. | Zoom

Zoom link: bit.ly/peace-justice-zoom

Hosted by our Peace & Justice Work Group.
zoom.us/join | Meeting ID: 860 2752 1655

For full descriptions of our programs and more adult education and small group opportunities, visit WPC.ORG/ADULTS or check our events calendar at WPC.ORG/EVENTS. Select adult education programs are available as a livestream/recording on our [YouTube channel](#).

Spring ECHO Giving



ECHO Giving provides the opportunity to honor someone by making an *ECHO* gift in their name, while supporting the local and global mission partners of Westminster. Your *ECHO* gift made during our Spring campaign produces life-sustaining reverberations of kindness and goodwill throughout our Wilmington community and across the world. Gifts of any size are welcome and 100% of dollars donated go directly to the mission organization you select.



***ECHO Giving* Order Forms are available online at bit.ly/ECHO-Giving-Spring2024 and can also be found at the information tables in Walton Community Hall each Sunday through May 19.**

You can request gift cards to notify recipients that a gift was made by you in their name.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Through May 12 (Regular Schedule)

9:00 a.m. | Sanctuary (traditional service)
11:15 a.m. | Rodney Chapel (*Living Mosaics* service)

May 19

One Service: 9:00 a.m. | Sanctuary

May 26 – September 1 (Summer Schedule)

One Service: 9:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff
The Rev. Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant

MUSIC STAFF

Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, Director of Music/Organist
Rebecca Hughes; Margaret Mezzacappa; Teddy Austin; Jerry Polman, Section Leaders
Emily Haas, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Cole Walker, Choral Assistant for Children and Youth

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Tanner Freeman (lead videographer), Rich Albert, Drew Holmes, George McAllister,
Chip Pfleegor, Roger Reinicker, Deanna Sparling, Aaron Wemhoff and Sophia Wolff

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Dan Weintraub and Jenn Barrington

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES STAFF

Kathleen Kennan, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry
Sydney Walker, Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Grace Anderson, 180 Youth Leader
Stephanie Burris-White, Director of Preschool Ministries and Beatrice Taylor, Nursery

SUPPORT STAFF

Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor
Mary Clark, Administrative Assistant
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations
Doug Gerds, Manager of Accounting and Reporting
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant
John Jordan, Robert King, Joan Truitt, John Young, Sextons

SESSION

Taryn Albert, Adam Blackford, Michelle Butler, Sally Buttner, John Carpenter, Clark Collins,
Bob Cox, Sara Dubberly, Rob Gooderham, Laura Holmes, Carla Krupanski, Daniel Malzhan,
KC Morrison, Dave McBride, Susan McPheeters, Carol Neff, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleegor,
Todd Piercy, Roger Reinicker, Laura Scanlan, Karissa Thacker, Dan Weintraub

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Brock Jobe, Sue Linderman, Robert Love, Kris Qualls, Stan Stevenson

PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

DR Congo – PC(USA) Mission Co-workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd, Larry and Inge Sthresley;
Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish, Conserv Congo: Adams Cassinga
Middle East (Syria, Lebanon, Palestine) - Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches (Syria, Lebanon)
PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker Elmarie Parker (Syria, Lebanon);
Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center in Bethlehem (Palestine)
Guatemala - CEDEPCA, AJPU, the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development,
and PC(USA) Mission Co-workers Betsey and Eric Moe